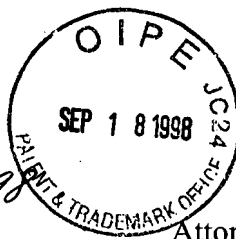


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PATENT

By [Signature]

Attorney Docket No. 016249-000810US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SAUNDERS ET AL.

Serial No.: 08/956,349

Filed: October 23, 1997

For: METHOD FOR ANALYZING DNA)
FROM A RARE CELL IN A CELL)
POPULATION)

Examiner: Joyce Tung

Art Unit: 1634

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Examiner's Action mailed March 19, 1998, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the following amendments and remarks. A petition to extend the time for response for three months from June 19, 1998, until September 19, 1998, accompanies this Amendment.

Please amend the application as follows:

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IN THE CLAIMS

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Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for separating a rare cell from other cells in a cell population comprising:
 - (a) applying cells from the cell population to a [surface] solid support;
 - (b) [determing] determining the location of the rare cell on the [surface] solid support and overlaying the cells with a solidifiable material, wherein a cover layer is formed;
 - (c) illuminating the cover layer with light focused at the location identified in step (b) whereupon a solid plug is formed from the solidifiable material at the location; and

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